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Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KINGST 01407 022213Z

64
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
---------- 035671
P 022140Z APR 76
FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 682

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 1407

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, EMIN, EINV, US, JM
SUBJECT: MINISTER OF MINES ON REVERE SITUATION

REFERENCE: KINGSTON 1378

1. DURING VISIT TO ESSO OIL EXPLORATION SHIP IN MONTEGO BAY APRIL 1, I HAD OPPORTUNITY TO REPEAT IN SOME DETAIL TO MINISTER OF MINES AND NATURAL RESOURCES HORACE CLARKE MY PITCH TO P.M. MANLEY (REFTEL) ON URGENCY AND IMPORTANCE OF GETTING REVERE NEGOTIATIONS BACK ON TRACK. CLARKE ASSURED ME THAT MATTER IS BEING GIVEN PRIORITY, COMMENTING THAT HE AND SEVERAL COLLEAGUES HAD SPENT MOST OF MARCH 30 CONDUCTING IN DEPTH REVIEW OF REVERE SITUATION.

2. CLARKE CLAIMED THAT THE PLANT HAS BEEN DETERIORATING RAPIDLY SINCE THE SHUTDOWN LAST SUMMER. I OBSERVED THAT THE SITUATION COULD ONLY GET WORSE AS I UNDERSTOOD REVERE INTENDED TO QUIT DOING ANY MAINTENANCE OR UPKEEP ON THE PLANT ONCE IT FILES ITS CLAIM WITH OPIC.

3. CLARKE HAS RECEIVED AND READ THE SOUTHWIRE REPORT, WHICH HE CHARACTERIZED AS BEING FAVORABLE. IT IS SOUTHWIRE'S OPINION THAT WITH A FURTHER $20 MILLION INVESTMENT IN THE PLANT, IT CAN BE MADE VIABLE. CLARKE PROMISED TO GET IN TOUCH WITH ME
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NEXT WEEK ON POSSIBLE STEMPS TO RENEW THE REVERE

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TALKS.

4. COMMENT: THE ABOVE SOUNDS ENCOURAGING, ALTHOUGH CLARKE DISPLAYED A DEEP-SEATED RESENTMENT AND SUSPICION OF REVERE IN OUR CONVERSATIONS. UNLIKE HIS PREDECESSOR (ALLAN ISAACS) CLARKE IS BEING CUT IN ON THE BAUXITE SCENE. NEGOTIATIONS, HOWEVER, WILL CONTINUE TO BE CONTROLLED PRIMARILY BY MAYER MATALON AND PAT ROUSSEAU OF THE BAUXITE COMMISSION. I HAVE AN APPOINTMENT WITH THE LATTER TWO GENTLEMEN FOR TUESDAY MORNING, APRIL 6 AT WHICH AN EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO INDUCE THE GOJ TO INVITE REVERE DOWN FOR SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS.
GERARD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ALUMINUM, NATIONALIZATION, INDUSTRIAL PLANTS, NEGOTIATIONS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976KINGST01407
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760125-0265
From: KINGSTON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t197604104/aaaadlrd.tel
Line Count: 74
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 76 KINGSTON 1378
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 JUL 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <28 OCT 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MINISTER OF MINES ON REVERE SITUATION
TAGS: PFOR, EMIN, EINV, US, JM, REVERE, (MANLEY, MICHAEL N)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006